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CIET (ACT) ACTIVITIES

On 11 December about 20 people assembled outside the Indonesian Embassy to protest against the invasion, occupation and genocide directed against the Democratic Republic of East Timor. The following letter was delivered to the Embassy's Press and Information Counsellor:

'To the Representative of the Indonesian Government in Australia:

As representatives from the Australian Parliament, the Churches, Trade Unions, Student Organisations and Voluntary Aid Agencies which make up the Campaign for an Independent East Timor, we affirm our continuing opposition to your Government's policies in East Timor.

On this occasion of the fourth anniversary of the invasion of East Timor by Indonesian troops, we would like to express our strong protest at the continued denial of human rights in East Timor by your Government.

We are particularly concerned with the suffering of the East Timorese people and your Government's refusal to allow representatives of Australian aid agencies access to East Timor thus ensuring proper distribution of aid to all those in need.

We join with the United Nations' General Assembly and the Conference of Non-Aligned Nations in their call for the immediate withdrawal of your troops from East Timor.

We hold firmly that the only just solution to the plight of the East Timorese is total and unconditional Indonesian withdrawal.

As representatives of concerned Australians we re-affirm our vigorous support for the rights of the East Timorese people and their just demands for self-determination and independence and we will continue to keep this issue firmly in the Australian consciousness.

Ken Fry, MHR, Patron, Campaign for an Independent East Timor

Brendan O'Dwyer, President, Campaign for an Independent East Timor (ACT)

Bill Tully, Secretary, Campaign for an Independent East Timor (ACT)

Afterwards Ken Fry spoke about the successes of Fretilin's administration of late 1975 in mass literacy, land reform and popular involvement. The agricultural base of the economy assured its viability with little need of imported aid and technology. These achievements were only partially destroyed by the Indonesian invasion as Fretilin remains, is still fighting and has received encouraging support by the recent victory of the Venuaaku Pati in the New Hebrides.

Humphrey McQueen took up Ken's point about the East Timorese ability to manage their own affairs and said that such independence had been demonstrated many times without the brutal intervention of outside 'liberators'. He compared East Timor before December 1975 with Kampuchea before December 1978 and with pre 1950 Indonesia. Kampuchea was supposedly in ruins and needed Vietnamese intervention for their survival. The Netherlands East Indies could only be viable, it was thought, with Dutch supervision for decades to come. Despite Suharto's brutality and oppression the Indonesian people belied such colonialist presuppositions by their ability to manage without Holland. Conversely the Kampucheans have plummeted from self sufficiency to abject misery in twelve months with effects comparable to those East Timorese unfortunate enough to live under Indonesian 'control'. Humphrey concluded by stressing the close co-operation of United States, Australian and Indonesian secret (and open) organs of suppression working hand in glove to destroy all independence struggles.

Helen Hill of the Australia East Timor Association, described the links forged between Timorese and Indonesian solidarity groups throughout the world. These remind Suharto and his regime that opposition remains and provides rallying points for an alternative and more democratic future. She cited Dutch citizens waging a court case against their government's attempted sale of Corvettes to Suharto; Indonesian students in West Germany who have organised a troupe of artists to produce discs, dances and concerts publicising East Timorese, Javanese and West Papua New Guinea culture; and British groups who have recently mounted a very successful demonstration against Suharto's visit to London.

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The Timor stall has resumed each Saturday in Petrie Plaza from 10-12 a.m. Up to date printed information, badges, stickers, and T-shirts are provided. Please drop in and ask any questions about East Timor and other areas of the South Pacific struggling for freedom.

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East Timor and Pacific News organised by Meredith, Teremoana, Elizabeth, Kerry and Stewart will continue during the holidays on radio 2XX (1008 on the dial) at 9.10 a.m. Friday and 11.10 a.m. Sunday.

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On 24 November in conjunction with other groups CIET (ACT) co-operated in a protest against the ACT Hawkers Ordinance. This outmoded law forbids any group from operating a stall or table within 200 yards of any commercial establishment without payment of $40 (for each occasion) and written police permission. These restrictions if enforced would close down CIET's stall. They have already involved other activists in costly court cases.

The protest, held in Petrie Plaza, was organised by the ACT Trades and Labour Council and chaired by TLC Secretary Charles McDonald. Speakers included Joan Coxsedge, Chairperson of the

Committee for the Abolition of Political Police (CAPP) and Ken Fry. Joan talked about the need to resist police pressure against basic freedoms. Ken appealed for funds to assist the East Timorese in their independence struggle. $90 was collected and sent to the Australian Council for Overseas Aid.

The ACT House of Assembly Committee of Management has recommended that no further prosecutions against people selling material of a political, religious or other cause be made under the Hawkers Ordinance until doubts about the law are resolved. (CT 6 Dec.) The TLC has also pledged its continuing opposition to the Ordinance. Those concerned about civil liberties should also assist, for, as a leaflet distributed by the Australian Independence Movement points out, such a law has wide implications:

"The Civic stalls have been a regular feature for at least four years. Until a year ago we never had any trouble. Then, without warning, the police were ordered to harass stallholders. They demanded licences, names, dates of birth and addresses. Any questioning of their right to carry on like this was met with threats and intimidation - the people on the anti-uranium stall were threatened with instant arrest, while a man on the AIM stall was arrested for asking the police why they needed his date of birth, and the entire stall and contents were confiscated.

Such attempts to restrict freedom of speech are part of a pattern of police intimidation. Other examples are: arrests of homeless people squatting in vacant government houses, arrest of workers picketing the Canberra abbatoir during an industrial dispute, arrest and charging with serious offences unemployed people who painted slogans on footpaths opposing the new work-test, and arrest of newspaper sellers.

This pattern has parallels elsewhere: ASIO legislation and repressive amendments to the Arbitration Act; bans on street marches and draconian essential services legislation in Queensland; bans on public meetings and anti-union legislation in Western Australia; and nationwide attempts by governments to restrict working people's ability to defend their wages and working conditions. In Canberra, public servants are well aware of the threat posed by the Commonwealth Employees (Redeployment and Retirement) Act and the Commonwealth Employees (Employment Provisions) Act, CERR and CEEP."

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Ián MacDougall produced a first rate one-person show at Childers Street on 30 November &1 and 7-8 December entitled Songs of an Urban Peasant. Proceeds were donated to the Red Cross Timor appeal. Ian plans to revive the show next February. A review appears in Southern Cross 13 (December 1979) p.7 (obtainable from P.O. Box 232, Dickson, ACT, 2602).

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Rob Wesley-Smith has produced some excellent 4¼" x 5½" new year greetings cards highlighting the struggle of the East Timor people in picture, poem, prose and greeting in English and Portuguese: 'May your coming year see greater peace and justice to all'. $16 for 100; $8 for 50; $4 for 25 from P.O. Box 2155, Darwin, NT, 5794.

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Warm seasons greetings and a happy new year to the peoples of East Timor, West Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, the South Pacific and Australia who are struggling in many heroic ways for freedom and independence.

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The Dutch Indonesia Committee are taking action against the sale of two 1500 ton corvettes by their government to Suharto.

Opposition to this sale was resolved at the January 1979 East Timor, Australia and the Region Conference which urged the Dutch Parliament to prevent the delivery of 3 corvettes because of Indonesia's agression against the peoples of West Irian, Kalimantan and East Timor.

The first corvette, worth around $50 has been delivered surreptitiously and ahead of time. Holland's Rhine-Schelde-Verolme ship building company is determined to get the other two through as they are part of a very profitable deal including full maintenance and training. (Nation Review 16 August)

CIET groups, the Dutch Indonesia Committee, the Southern Molucca group and exiled West Papua New Guinea leader Jacob Prai on Monday, 7 January 1980 are co-ordinating pickets outside Dutch embassies and consulates and the presentation of petitions to representatives therein. CIET (ACT) intend having a short vigil at 2.30 p.m. on this day at the Royal Netherlands Embassy, 120 Empire Circuit, Yarralumla. Those who would like to help please contact our address above.

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LETTER

Timor and South Pacific Information Service
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21 November 1979

Dear friends and activists,

After travelling for a few months through the Pacific and making some valuable contacts on the Solomon Islands and with the Vanuaaku Pati on the New Hebrides, we have finally arrived in West Germany. Even though this country presented us with less of a shock than did the U.S. of A. the starting difficulties here in Munich have been enormous. The situation on the real estate market is such that we spent about three weeks full-time searching for accommodation only to find a third-floor flat which we are now renting for some outrageous sum of money. The job problem is solved for the time being since we have one temporary job for 6 months (M.W.) and one casual job with some prospect of permanency (P.A.F.).

As expected the news about the Timor situation in the German media are very scarce and the few items that appear are the usual falsifications from Djakarta's propaganda machine with the Indonesians acting as the benefactors of the poor, civil-war stricken people of East Timor! We are therefore setting up a Timor and South Pacific Information Service in order to inform the German media, Government and Parliament regularly about East Timor and the region.

Since our main news sources will be in Australia we hope that you will keep the good work on the East Timor and Pacific Report up and send us a regular copy. The cheque for the first year's air mail subscription is enclosed. We hope you are all well, working hard and optimistic. Yours sincerely,

Trish and Michael

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CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICE (CRS) AND EAST TIMOR

In a letter to the Washington Star of 18 November the Minister Counsellor of the US Indonesian Embassy protested against 'malicious fabrications' by 'a small gang that calls itself Fretilin' and accused the Star's writer H.S. Bradsher of disrupting 'good and friendly relations between the United States and Indonesia'. He protested that 'Not a single, sensible man will believe that the Indonesian Government deliberately lets its people in East Timor starve ...' and catalogued the food and relief agencies allowed in:

'The Indonesian Red Cross is working with the International Committee of the Red Cross ... Cooperation ... has also come from UNICEF ... Canada, the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands ... Even the American Catholic Relief Service has been given the opportunity to participate in these efforts.'

This newsletter has frequently looked at the role of the 'friendly' countries mentioned by Suharto's spokesperson - their massive investments in Indonesia, their profitable loans through the Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia and their sale of arms to boost exports while contributing directly to the fight against East Timorese independence. It has analysed the Indonesian Red Cross (November 1978) and its international counterpart (October/November 1979) and found them to be at best ineffective and at worst working hand in glove with Jakarta's army of occupation. Has Catholic Relief Service, so proudly flourished by the Minister Counsellor, succeeded where others failed?

CRS was founded in 1943 as the official overseas relief agency for the American Catholic community. It has a staff of 200 in the US and nearly 1,000 in 85 countries throughout the world. It distributes food, clothing and medicine and supports indigenous agencies in disaster, refugee and other rehabilitation programs. Its 1978 budget was $US257m of which $US179m came from the US Government.

When CRS's Executive Director Bishop E.B. Broderick was touring Indonesia this year, Foreign Minister Malik asked him for direct aid to East Timor. Approval was given by the US Government who underwrote over a million dollars for the cost of the program. Previously CRS had been contributing to the Indonesian Catholic Church aid efforts in the region. After 4 months delay Francis Carlin, Director of CRS Indonesia was allowed to make a 6-day assessment of the East Timor situation in June. It was planned that 16 CRS Indonesian personnel would administer the program and the Director allowed to make brief visits at intervals during the 4 - 6 months of its operation.

Peter Rogers of the Sydney Morning Herald interviewed Mr Carlin during the early stages of CRS's program in October when the organisation hoped to distribute 8,200 tonnes of food to 240,000 people by mid-December on a budget of $US6.5m, a fifth of which was earmarked for transport costs. An Indonesian source later admitted that CRS trucks (7 three-ton Toyotas), 15 military and local vehicles, rented boats, barges and landing craft were eating up nearly $1,600,000 by late October. The source also said that the target of 10,000 tonnes of food was half of what was needed, that only 2,400 tonnes had in fact been distributed and that urgent further assistance was needed as the 6,000 tonnes CRS had undertaken to supply in the coming months was insufficient. The food was to be distributed through military and civilian authorities and medicine, seeds, clothing and soap through local parishes and schools.

Other more direct criticisms of CRS have been made. Though the Australian Council of Overseas Aid (ACFOA) July report on aid to East Timor could not comment on CRS, it later criticised them for functioning as a link between the Indonesian Army and USAID. This charge is given substance by a blistering attack on CRS in the 28 September issue of the National Catholic Reporter. The article found CRS's programs in general hierarchical, financially secretive and mirroring US foreign policy. 'Here is a church organisation that supposedly takes moral stands (acting) like the CIA' was the disgusted reaction of a staffer to Father Robert Charlebois, the organisation's government liaison person who advocated the exclusion of CRS-US government correspondence from public scrutiny. Other cases were cited of aid subsidising the Chilean junta's starvation wage policies from 1974 to 1978, working with US AID to dampen political unrest in Peru in 1978 and refusing to assist the Eritrean's battle against Ethiopian aggression. In the last case Director Broderick stated 'any group that wants to overthrow the government we certainly stay away from'. Broderick was once Secretary to Cardinal Spellman, who defended the US role in Vietnam by declaring 'my country right or wrong'. It is ironic that the Cardinal's protege should be defending a regime armed and financed by the Soviet Union.

CRS has certainly followed the US policy in East Timor. Broderick has said on this issue:

'our concept is not to engage in political motivation. We instruct ... our people not to get involved in revolutions ... the politics of the place, because we feel our effectiveness is curtailled by becoming political.'

He later said he could not accept the idea of a bloodbath in East Timor. Neither could others. Father Charlebois doubted the atrocity charges laid against the Indonesians as his group has seen 'no evidence of mistreatment'. Mr Carlin saw nothing which would confirm allegations of genocide.

CRS field officers have praised Indonesian military and civil authorities for their 'co-operation'. Armando Sonaggere CRS Regional Director excused the military surveillance of aid distribution. 'I would imagine' he said 'there are some areas that are sensitive (and need) protection'. The protection is obviously meant to prevent aid getting to Fretilin and defend the Indonesian troops and their lackeys from Fretilin attacks.

Clearly the Indonesian authorities have nothing to fear from CRS. The organisation is funded by the US, ideologically incapable of assisting independence movements, supplied to meet only the short term needs of the populace and supervised by Suharto's troops. With the beginning of the wet season in mid December, the end of their six months visit and possibly the start of another Indonesian offensive against Fretilin, CRS aid will soon end. They have given much comfort to the Suharto regime's image in the Western press and little to those unfortunately living under its reality.

W. Tully

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REVIEW

Rendra, W.S. The struggle of the Naga tribe: a play. Translated and introduced by Max Lane, St. Lucia, University of Queensland Press, 1979, xli, 101 p. Paper: $5.95, Cloth: $10.95.

The appearance of S.S. Rendra's controversial play, Kisah Perjuangan Suku Nage in an eminently readable English translation by Max Lane, entitled The Struggle of the Naga Tribe, is a literary event which should interest both the student of modern Indonesian literature and the general reader. Rendra, poet, playwright, actor, director and all-round showman is one of the best known figures on the Indonesian literary scene, and has acquired quite a reputation abroad as well, both for his considerable literary output and for his trenchent criticisms of the 'New Order' regime of President Soeharto, which led to his retention under house arrest in 1978.

Despite a great deal of very amusing satire, The Struggle is basically a serious play which embodies Rendra's critique of contemporary Indonesian society and which goes some way toward suggesting possible alternatives to the present government's development strategy. It was staged only twice in Jakarta in 1975, and was never published, apparently because of official displeasure.

Using techniques which draw heavily on the conventions of the traditional Javanese Wayang, (Shadow puppet theatre) the play depicts the conflict which arises when a foreign mining company, attempts to disrupt the culture of a small agricultural community, the Nagas, in order to establish a mining town on their ancestral land. The company is headed by a mysterious millionaire, the 'Big Boss' and is aided and abetted by a corrupt ambassador, Mr Joe, and by the profit hungry rules of the Nagas own country, a mythical kingdom called Astinam, which bears a surprising resemblance to a non-mythical republic called Indonesia.

The Nagas, led by their chief Abisavam, stand their ground, and refuse to be intimidated by the various high level personages who visit them. They are supported by a sympathetic foreign journalist, Carlos whose account of the company's plans to move the Nagas from their lands causes a good deal of adverse publicity when it appears in the foreign press, which, unlike that of Astinam, is still free. Fearing a public scandal, the Big Boss decided to build his mining town elsewhere, and to leave the Nagas alone, at least for the time being.

The choice of the name Astinam is not arbitrary. It is obviously derived from Astina, the country of the Kurawas, the 'bad guys' of the Mahabarata Wayang cycle. So to the name of the capital Astinampuram is derived from Astinapura, the Kurawa capital. The play falls into two parts, again like the Wayang, scenes in the Naga village, and scenes in the Capital. They are linked by the commentary of a dalang (puppet master of the wayang). The Astinampuram seene, a delightful parody of the wayang audience scene or jejer introduces us to the Queen of Astinam, Sri Ratu, her Prime Minister, Security Minister and the leaders of the Parliament, which is no more than a rubber stamp of executive policy. The portrayal of the ruling elite, their obsession with 'development', their affectation of foreign

ways and their greed for personal profit is bitingly sarcastic, and astonishingly outspoken. There are no prizes for guessing the identities of Sri Ratu, the Prime Minister or the Security chief.

By contrast the Naga people are honest, hard working fiercely loyal to each other and to the traditions of their ancestors, all the qualities that we might expect of the good party in a wayang lakon. The dichotomy in characterisation between the two factions has been severely criticised by some Indonesian reviewers, but in all fairness it must be said that the characterisation as a whole has been conceived in the traditional black/white good/evil mode of the wayang. Given the submerged form which underpins the play, the stylised characterisation would probably be recognised and accepted, at least by Javanese audiences. The Western reader however may find the dialogues between the Naga chief and his son and the other members of their community in which they set out their philosophy of self help and union with nature, disappointingly dull and didactic, even a little pompous, despite many valid points contained in them. One might also query whether a return to the village community of the type which Rendra extols in many fine poetic passages is really a viable option for any developing country in todays world. Rendra of course must be allowed some poetic licence, he is a poet, not a sociologist or a politician.

Max Lane's English translation has captured the tone of the Indonesian original in a pleasing way, moving with ease from the colloquial speech of the scenes in the capital to the lyric descriptions of the Nagas relationship to their land, without any sign of strain or artificality. The translation itself is generally faithful to the original, although there are a few minor quibbles: for example, 'cell' (p.27) should read 'ward', while 'jelly' (p.39) might be better translated 'jam'. 'Bule' (p.49) here rendered 'albino' could be more appropriately 'whitey' or, perhaps in the context even 'honkey'.

The translator's task was doubly difficult as he was obliged to work from dialogue sheets supplied to the actors, and not from a published text. The stage directions were collected from information supplied by participants after a performance. The text may therefore contain some elements which the author may have revised or deleted from a published version.

Mr Lane's lucid introduction, which sets out the wayang format so essential to an understanding of the play and his copious footnotes, make this easily the best Indonesian translation in QUP's Asian and Pacific Writing series, and one of the best to appear in Australia generally. It is a welcome addition to the small but growing corpus of Asian writing in translation.

C.P. Woodcroft-Lee
ANU Canberra

(This review will also appear in a forthcoming issue of ASAA (Asian Studies Association of Australia) Review.)

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THE POLICY OF FAMINE

This Thanksgiving the big news on the international food front is that starvation is back as a pretty well accepted political tactic.

True, denying food and imposing malnutrition, disease and death upon large numbers of civilians, for a political purpose,

has never really gone out of style. But after World War II, which did after all produce a certain revulsion against the deliberate infliction of suffering on masses of non-combatants, there perhaps was a time when a carelessly hopeful person might have thought the mold had cracked.

Not so. The situation in Cambodia, where Vietnam and its puppet regime, with Soviet approval, have been forcing a surrender-or-starve choice upon the Cambodian people, is merely the most conspicuous, vicious and 'successful' case. The Indonesians, who enjoy American patronage, have been doing it inconspicuously in rebellious East Timor for years. The different parties in the Rhodesia war have been doing it in their various fashions, also for years. The Nigerians in their war against Biafra, Ethiopia in its struggle against secessionists ...

Note well: I am not talking here about simply using food as a political carrot or stick, which is common both in the export policies of the United States and in the internal-distribution policies of many local governments. I am talking about military operations aimed at driving farmers off the land, destroying crops and seeds, rendering fields uncultivable, denying relief - in brief, operations aimed at causing the sort of human loss that makes societies buckle.

In the American self-image and in much of our practice, we are a generous people eager to feed the hungry everywhere without letting politics intrude. Yet in Vietnam, even as we sent in shiploads of food aid, we spread the herbicides and conducted the bombing that made some part of that aid necessary. Our record is mixed enough to warrant some humility.

As it happens, the practice of deliberately inflicting hunger for political aims has flourished even as the conquest of hunger has been widely accepted in official pronouncements, as an important international goal.

It suggests a certain failure of imagination that so little attention has been given to the matter of man-made famine. People of good will have labored hard, for instance, to ensure that governments would not loose exotic germs or chemicals upon civilian populations, but the coarser and more common threat of food denial is little noted. The international community has been struggling to organise better to cope with natural disasters, but the man-made disaster of enforced starvation falls outside the pale.

Perhaps it is that the use of food as a political level has become so ordinary, so legitimized by regular unremarked practice, that people - Americans in particular - don't focus on the use of food as the ultimate political lever until it's too late, as in Cambodia.

An oft-cited CIA study of 1974 suggested countering "oil or economic strangulation" with "food strangulation" and observed grandly "As the custodian of the bulk of the world's exportable grain, the US might regain the primacy of world affairs ...".

So it is that many Americans speak now of the desirability of cutting off food exports to Iran. A case can be made that a cutoff would merely reduce the quality of the Iranian diet and cause the government problems of control, without starving anyone. But it is a slippery slope.

You might have thought that the spread of powerful modern weapons would help preclude starvation situations - by putting

the means for a knockout punch into the hands of societies' that otherwise might conduct their political disputes as protracted peasant wars.

But the spread of these weapons has not confined battles to armed combatants on battlefields. The spirit of the age has energized many popular causes, and people tend to struggle on. It is precisely the difficulty of routing out low-level resistance, especially in the countryside, by planes and tanks that has given food-denial tactics their opening.

The civilian victims are customarily removed by remoteness and the starver's censorship, from the news coverage that might help the humanitarian community mobilize the political community. The starver's troops often limit or deny the victims the benefits of international relief, if it is offered.

It has become a cliche that we should all fight the "war on hunger". It should become the common political rule that we will allow no one to wage war by hunger. That would be cause for thanksgiving.

Stephen S. Rosenfeld
Washington Post

23 November 1979

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WHITLAM AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

Australia's former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam continues to actively oppose the East Timorese, West Papua New Guinea and New Hebrides popular struggles and align himself with their oppressors. Speaking in Port Moresby he characterised Fretilin's administration during late 1975 as 'an imposed military regime' (CT 1 November). He did not explain how such a dictatorship gathered and still retains wide popular support. Not only does Fretilin continue to wage guerrilla warfare in many parts of the interior thereby preventing access to Indonesia but it also carries out educational and health programmes (Tribune, 28 November; East Timor News, 18 October).

A month later at a Canberra seminar Whitlam pronounced the basis of West Papua New Guinea independence to be 'dubious' and thanked God that decolonisation in the New Hebrides and other areas in the Pacific would not affect Australia or Indonesia (CT 1 December). The facts are otherwise.

The West Papua New Guinea struggle may appear dubious in the cloistered peace of the Australian National University but ignoring the wisdom of neo-colonial boundaries the West Papuans in 1977 shot down and holed RAAF 'map survey' helicopters, wrought damage of several million US dollars to Freeport's copper mine and made lethal attacks on Indonesian garrisons throughout the territory. (Dissent, Autumn 1978, pp 29-33) These people expose Whitlam's delusions by deeds. Another nationalist does it in words:

'Indonesians, Dutch, Australians and Americans alike, seem to adopt the attitude of knowing the situation better than we do ... They tell us who we are and what we want for our future. If we disagree with them they claim we are still primitive, we are communists or subversives. Where else in today's world would the dictum be accepted that a people were too primitive even to be free?' (Pacific People's Action Front (PNG Section), May 1976)

Recent events in the New Hebrides have direct relevance to Australia, Indonesia and struggles for self determination throughout the region. After a hard ten years struggle for independence in this Anglo-French comdominium of 80 islands, the Venuaaku Pati led by Father Walter Lini won 75% of the votes cast in the general election of 14 November and 26 out of 39 seats in the Parliament. Like Fretilin Venuaaku is pledged to land reform, economic equalisation and the promotion of indigenous culture. The new Government has also promised to recognise the Democratic Republic of East Timor and support the struggles in West Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia and Tahiti. Secretary-General Barak Sope has given French, British and Australian speculators, companies and tax-haven seekers notice that they will now be controlled by the people of the New Hebrides. (Interview, Radio 2XX, 25 November)

As Mr Whitlam has been invited to visit Indonesian occupied East Timor in January his retrospective self justifications for siding with neo-colonialism will continue. That they are repulsive to many ALP members is evidenced in the censure motion the Canberra City Branch plans to launch against its best known member in the new year. (National Times, 22 December)

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NEWS BRIEFS

American 'Success' at the UN

Noam Chomsky in his October statement to the Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly says some revealing things about a recent US Ambassador to the international body.

He quotes from the recent memoirs of Daniel P. Moynihan about his activity on the East Timor issue:

'The Department of State desired that the United Nations prove utterly ineffective in whatever measures it undertook. This task was given to me, and I carried it forward with no inconsiderable success.'

Moynihan acknowledges that 10% of East Timor's population had been killed by early 1976 but concludes that the success of the Indonesian takeover was evidenced by the disappearance of the subject from the press and the UN after March 1976.

Chomsky points out that though the UN has not been silent, much of the US and Western press has; a curtain of silence he sees as demonstrating less the success of Indonesian arms than the effectiveness of Western propaganda systems. The $US178m of US military aid to Indonesia since December 1976 is highly effective lubricant to these systems.

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The Russian Media and Timor

Izvestiia of 13 November waxes wrath at the Frankfurter' Allgemeine's captioning of a picture of starving Timorese children as 'refugees from Kampuchea'. Russian support of Vietnam's 200,000 troops in Kampuchea creates no such misery, it seems (that is usually the fault of Pol Pot). But no one can say Izvestiia is biassed as it doesn't blame the Indonesians for the suffering of the East Timorese but 'the heavy legacy of colonialism'. That Izvestiia doesn't mean Indonesia is evident if read together with its earlier report on that country's 34th independence day:

'The Indonesian people are currently having to focus their efforts on resolving the many complex problems inherited from colonialism ...

'The Indonesian Government has elaborated plans for measures to improve the economic situation ...

'The (Indonesian people) advocate the activation of Indonesia's role in the international arena, the revival of its prestige in the non-aligned movement and the strengthening relations with the developing and socialist countries.' (18 August)

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Former Puppet Governor's Revelations

Arnaldo de Araujo installed by Indonesia as 'Governor of East Timor' after the 1975 invasion and dismissed in 1978 wrote a report to Suharto in 1976 complaining that 'his' government was completely subservient to the Indonesian Army. The report, smuggled out by refugees has been recently released by Jill Jolliffe: (CT 27 November)

Mr Araujo describes how soldiers killed pro-Indonesian UDT and Apodeti supporters, thereby alienating former allies. As for their looting:

'It is difficult to understand why it continues six months (after the invasion) leaving everybody in a state of cruel insecurity ...'

The agricultural base of the country had been disrupted and the people turned from producers into consumers with no plans made to grow crops.

'Day and night, at my home and office, widows, orphans, children and cripples come begging for milk and clothing. I can do nothing but join my tears to theirs, because the Provisional Government owns nothing.'

The takeover by Indonesians of local businesses, the corruption, the use of Indonesian as the official language and the military occupation of private houses (leaving former army barracks empty) are revealed.

Mr de Araujo was replaced by Mr Guilherme Goncalves as 'Governor' and now sits in the Indonesian Parliament.

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Australia-Indonesia Defence Ties

The 1979 Australian Defence Report describes the following co-operative activities between the Indonesian and Australian defence establishments during 1978/79.

.The visit of Defence Minister Killen to Indonesia in November 1978 for consultation with President Suharto and Defence Minister Jusuf.

- The visit to Australia of Indonesian Chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- Joint naval exercises in the Java Sea between 25-29 September 1978 where four Australian ships joined three Indonesian craft for training in communications, anti-submarine warfare, gunnery and air defence.

Defence expenditure of $7.2m in 1978/79 included:

i) Delivery of 4 Nomad patrol and surveillance craft to Indonesia.

ii) Maintenance of Jakarta's fleet of C-130 Hercules aircraft.

iii) Continuation of the survey and mapping project in Irian Jaya by the RAAF and its extension to the Moluccas.

In late September the Australian Army Chief of Staff Lieut. Gen. Dunstan made a week long visit to Indonesia. There he met the head of Security Admiral Sudomo, Army Chief Widodo and General Jusuf.(Indonesian Newsletter 21/79)

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More Media Bans on East Timor

On his return from a trip to Indonesia last October the AJA Victorian Secretary was jubilant about the 'significant breakthrough' of the Indonesian Government allowing Australian journalists into Timor for the first time since 1975. (CT 24 October) Pro-Indonesian Sydney Morning Herald correspondent in Jakarta visited East Timor, smuggled out some horrific famine pictures, won the $1,500 Graham Perkin award as journalist of the year (CT 5 December) and made the Suharto regime think again about opening the territory to inquisitive media people. When about to board the plane to Dili on 14 December journalists from Associated Press, the Asian Wall Street Journal, the Far Eastern Economic Review and the Australian Broadcasting Commission had their clearances revoked (CT 15 December). Security Chief Sudomo is thought to be behind the move.

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Tweedledum and Tweedledee Union Politics

A.A. Simakoff, outgoing Branch President of the ACT Branch of the Administrative and Clerical Officers Association (ACOA) put the following item of general business on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting of 29 November:

' (that) Branch Council cease forthwith from allocating the resources of the Branch, including debating time to such issues (as Timor, apartheid, abortion and the general question of the mining and export of uranium).'

This echoes the sentiments of incoming Branch President for 1980-1982, Phil O'Brien who has often stated his opposition to such issues as East Timor, though he occasionally (such as the 1978 AGMs stinging rebuff to the proposed 1979 visit of Russian trade unionists) takes a stand politically acceptable to a majority of ACOA members.

Despite the Council resolution of May 1976 opposing tours to and through Indonesia until Suharto's troops withdraw from East Timor there is evidence (Hotline, travel notes, 26 November 1976, p.6) that such ACOA tours occur. Perhaps Messrs Simakoff and O'Brien could investigate how much of the 1978/79 surplus of $20,729 (nearly double that of 1977/78) was earned from trips to Bali? Australian tourists to Indonesia have increased from 53,121 in 1977 to 60,761 in 1978. The 1979 figures show no sign of decreasing to the joy of Suharto's military cronies who make a big rakeoff from their investments in this booming sector. If ACOA wants to distance itself from Timor let its officials do so financially and be seen to do so.

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